



BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st. DECEMBER, 1967

H.O.H. Budgetmaster, 1967. I

Handwritten @ 318² 14 MAY 1969 15 MAY 1969

BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1967.

Chairman:

ALDERMAN C. W. MILNE, J. P.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. J. AYRES

COUNCILLOR C. M. FORREST

COUNCILLOR MRS. B. E. MORSE

COUNCILLOR F. PHILLIPS

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. REES, J. P.

COUNCILLOR C. J. STONE, J. P.

COUNCILLOR MRS. I. Y. A. TESTER, B. A.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1967.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. H. WATSON, M. B., B. Ch. B. A. O., D. P. H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C. C.):

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M. B., B. S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. K. LEAN, F. A. P. H. I. (Retired 19th May, 1967)

D. J. HUNT, M. A. P. H. I., Assoc. A. R. S. H. (Commenced 7th June, 1967)

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

C. W. RICHARDS, A. R. S. H., M. A. P. H. I.

R. W. L. READ, D. P. A., M. A. P. H. I.

Meat Inspector:

J. FIELD, Assoc. R. S. H., M. A. M. I.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1967.

Tel: Bridgwater 4147/8.

Health Department,
22, King Square,
BRIDGWATER.

June, 1968.

To:

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1967. The report is set out in the manner of previous reports, so that comparison with former years can easily be made. Generally the health of the Borough has been good and, apart from measles, notification of infectious diseases has been satisfactorily low. However 397 cases of measles were notified and it is very probable that the true incidence of the disease was significantly higher than this. It is therefore satisfactory to note that a reliable vaccine against the disease has been produced and the Ministry of Health will initiate a national measles vaccination campaign during the present year.

The vital statistics call for no special comment except that the number of illegitimate births rose from 31 in 1966 to 49 in 1967, while the total number of births remained more or less the same. This appears to be the modern trend in Urban areas.

On the 15th May, 1967, Mr. R. K. Lean retired after many years service as Chief Public Health Inspector and I would like to record my appreciation of all the good work he did to improve health standards in the Borough. We were very happy to welcome Mr. D. J. Hunt who came to us from Bury, Lancs., as Mr. Lean's successor.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and consideration which I have received and for the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow officers.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	2, 083
Population (census 1961)	25, 582
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1967.	26, 580
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1967.	8, 420
Rateable value on 31st December, 1967.	£1, 152, 173
Sum represented by 1d. rate on 31st December, 1967.	£4, 598

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1967

Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	226	225	451
Illegitimate	24	25	49
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	250	250	500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Live Birth Rate per 1, 000 population			18. 81
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			9. 80
Still Births			12
Still Birth Rate per 1, 000 live and still births			23. 44
Total live and still births			512
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)			4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1, 000 live births - total			8. 00
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1, 000 total live births)			4. 00
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1, 000 total live births)			4. 00

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 27.34

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) NIL

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births NIL

Deaths

Total number of deaths 360

Death Rate per 1,000 population 13.54

Births

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 500 births (250 boys and 250 girls) in the Borough during 1967, being 6 births more than in 1966. Of these births 49 were illegitimate. This is 9.8% of the total live births, as compared with 6.3% in 1966.

The birth rate for any area is dependent on the composition of its population, and the Registrar General provides a comparability factor which is used to enable comparison to be made between the vital statistics of different areas. The product of the local birth rate and the comparability factor for the area is used for this purpose. Adjusted in this way the Standardised Birth Rate was 18.43 per 1,000 of population, which is more or less what would be expected in a prosperous town with a high employment rate. The ratio of the Standardised Birth Rate to the national rate was 1.07.

Birth rates for Bridgwater and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows: -

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Crude Local Birth Rate	18.79	18.82	19.37	18.64	18.81
Standardised Birth Rate	18.51	18.44	18.98	18.26	18.43
England and Wales	18.20	18.40	18.00	17.70	17.20

Still Births

12 still births were registered during the year. 11 were legitimate and 1 illegitimate. This number gives a rate of 23.44 per 1,000 total births.

Deaths

The number of deaths which occurred in the Borough during 1967 was 296. Of these 32 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand, 96 deaths of Bridgwater residents registered outside the Borough. The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the Borough was 360 (185 males and 175 females). This was 54 deaths more than in the previous year, and gave a crude death rate of 13.54.

This crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can be compared with the death rate of the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other local area. The Standardised Death Rate so obtained was 12.72 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 11.2 for England and Wales. The actual ratio was 1.13.

Death rates for Bridgwater Borough and England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Crude Death Rate	11.44	10.76	12.05	11.54	13.54
Standardised Death Rate	11.09	10.43	11.28	10.60	12.72
England and Wales	12.20	11.30	11.50	11.70	11.20

CAUSE OF DEATH	M	F	Total
ALL CAUSES	185	175	360
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	5	3	8
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	12	1	13
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	5	5
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	3	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	14	34
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	4	2	6
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	22	26	48
18. Coronary disease and angina	39	29	68
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease	10	30	40
21. Other circulatory disease	17	13	30
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	10	16	26
24. Bronchitis	12	1	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
27. Gastritis	-	2	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	14	23
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	2	7
34. All other accidents	3	3	6
35. Suicide	6	4	10
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	-	1

As will be seen from the foregoing table, the principal causes of death were as follows:-

Heart disease	111
Cancer	63
Vascular lesions of nervous system	48
Pneumonia and bronchitis	39

Deaths. Age Groups 1967

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	2	2	4
1 - 4 years	1	1	2
5 - 14 years	1	-	1
15 - 24 years	4	1	5
25 - 34 years	1	1	2
35 - 44 years	6	1	7
45 - 54 years	10	11	21
55 - 64 years	46	18	64
65 - 74 years	56	35	91
75 and over	58	105	163
	185	175	360

Cancer Mortality

The number of deaths from cancer of Bridgwater residents was 63 (males 37, females 26) as compared with 54 in 1966. They constituted 17.5% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease.

<u>Localisation</u>	<u>Number of deaths</u>			
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1966</u>
Stomach	5	3	8	5
Lungs	12	1	13	12
Breast	-	5	5	6
Uterus	-	3	3	1
Other and unspecified organs	20	14	34	30
Total	37	26	63	54

Cancer of the Uterus

The County Council have now started a scheme whereby cervical smears can be taken with a view to preventing cancer of the womb. The tests are taken by family doctors and are examined at Musgrove Park Hospital.

Cancer of the Lungs

The ages at which deaths from lung cancer occurred during the last five years is detailed in the following table: -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Under 15</u>	<u>15/24</u>	<u>25/34</u>	<u>35/44</u>	<u>45/54</u>	<u>55/64</u>	<u>Over 65</u>	<u>Total</u>
1963	-	-	-	-	2	2	8	12
1964	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	10
1965	-	-	-	1	-	4	7	12
1966	-	-	-	-	1	7	4	12
1967	-	-	-	-	1	4	8	13

Infantile Mortality

4 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gave an infantile mortality rate of 8.00 while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 18.3.

The following table shows the causes of the infant deaths in detail: -

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Pulmonary atelectasis	2	-	-	-	2
Asphyxia	-	-	-	1	1
Bronchial Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	1
	2	-	1	1	4

There were 2 deaths of infants during the first 4 weeks of life compared with 5 the previous year.

Deaths from Heart Disease

Of the 360 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in 3 (males 50, females 61). It represented 30.83% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 4.13 per 1,000 of the population.

Influenza and Pneumonia Mortality

There was only 1 death from these diseases, as against 31 in 1966. The mortality rate per 1,000 of the population was .37.

Suicide

10 deaths were caused by suicide.

Inquests

19 inquests were held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year.

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Road accidents	2	1	3
Accidents in the home	1	-	1
Misadventure	1	1	2
Suicide	7	4	11
Accidental drowning	1	1	2
Total	12	7	19

Population

The estimated population of the Borough as at June, 1967 was 26,580 which was an increase of 80 over the previous year. The natural increase in population, that is that excess of births over deaths, was 140.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Population</u>	<u>Natural Increase</u>
1957	24,480	115
1958	24,890	93
1959	25,290	147
1960	25,580	166
1961	25,580	129
1962	25,930	194
1963	26,130	192
1964	26,300	212
1965	26,480	195
1966	26,500	188
1967	26,580	140

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year include:-

Water samples	24
Ice cream samples	72
Prepared Foods	62

Hospitals

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South Western Regional Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Hospital	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

The South West Regional Hospital Board have informed the Council of their change of plan for improving facilities at Bridgwater Hospital. At the time of writing the new Outpatients Department on the Broadway site is near completion. On completion of this project it is intended to improve the existing Xray and Casualty Departments.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Doctors' ante-natal clinics are held three times a week at the Mary Stanley Nursing Home and are staffed by general practitioners who are interested in maternity work. The clinics help to cement the relationship between patient, midwife and doctor and are particularly valuable.

The usual clinics held at the Health Centre on the first Monday and the third Wednesday of the month for taking blood samples from expectant mothers for determination of Rhesus Factor, blood groupings etc. are continued as heretofore. During 1967 751 persons attended. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 966.

Relaxation Classes

These classes which have become very popular are attended by about 20 expectant mothers at a time and are held at the Health Centre on Tuesdays from 7 p. m. to 8 p. m. and on Thursday from 2.30 p. m. to 3.30 p. m. Following short talks on "Parentcraft" by a doctor, health visitor or midwife, relaxation instruction is given by a physiotherapist.

Mothers Clubs

The Mothers Club which meets at the Health Centre has continued to flourish and has a membership of over 60 mothers. The average attendance at each weekly meeting is 35 - 40. After listening to a speaker or seeing an educational film, the mothers enjoy a social evening together. A similar club has now been organised for mothers living at the eastern end of the town and meetings are held every other Monday at 7.30 p. m. at Sydenham Secondary School during term time.

The mothers also help the Infant Welfare Clinic by taking charge of the play room during the infant welfare sessions.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Infant Welfare Clinics are held as follows: -

The Health Centre,
Mount Street.

Tuesday, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
Friday, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

The Community Centre,
Parkway.

Thursday, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

Greenfields,
Hamp Estate.

2nd and 4th Tuesday in month,
2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics

The Health Centre,
Mount Street.

Friday, 11.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

The Community Centre,
Parkway.

A special clinic is now held
on the first Friday in each month
at 10.00 a.m.

Vaccination against Smallpox

The Health Centre,
Mount Street.

2nd and 3rd Friday in each month
by appointment.

Polio Immunisation Clinics

The Health Centre,
Mount Street.

Friday, 11.00 a.m.

The Community Centre,
Parkway.

The first Friday in each month
at 10.00 a.m.

School Clinics

A school medical officer attends a school clinic each Monday morning from 10.00 a.m. at the Health Centre, Mount Street, and is available to advise parents on any health matters concerning their children. Many parents avail themselves of this additional opportunity to discuss their children's health with the school doctor.

School nurses hold minor ailments clinics at the Health Centre, from 9.00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Other clinics held at the Health Centre, Mount Street include:-

Chest Clinic	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday a. m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Monday a. m. (except first Monday in month)
Child Guidance Clinic	Tuesday a. m.
Breathing Exercises Clinic	Wednesday p. m. by appointment
Artificial Sunlight Clinic	Tuesday and Friday p. m.
Speech Therapy Clinic	Monday a. m. , Tuesday a. m. , Wednesday a. m. , Thursday a. m. and Friday a. m.

Friarn Day Nursery

This nursery, administered by the County Council, is available for children aged 6 months to 5 years. A list of priorities has been drawn up by the Council and a local Admission Committee decide which children should be admitted. Admission is granted mainly on grounds of economic difficulty or unsatisfactory housing conditions. Accommodation is available for 25 children. The average daily attendance during 1967 was 22 children.

Ambulance Service

The new ambulance station at Friarn Street has functioned satisfactorily and efficiently. Ambulances are controlled by radio communication from a central control at Taunton and a satisfactory service is provided.

Home Help Service

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street.

Once again the Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 276 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of cases:-

Post and Pre-natal	3
Maternity	18
Old age and infirmity	201
Tuberculosis	2
Chronic sick	21
Post operation	9
Emergency illness	7
Other cases	15

In many cases assisted, the patient or other members of the family would have been unable to remain at home, were it not for the Home Help Service.

In addition to the normal service, arrangements have been made for women to sit up with seriously ill cases where alternative arrangements cannot be made.

The number of Home Helps at 31st December, 1967 was as follows:-

Full time	6
Part time	30

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

Welfare of Old People

The various organisations to which reference was made in previous reports have continued to play an important part in contributing to the welfare of old people. The inclusion of chiropody treatment as part of the National Health Service has helped to fill a great need and has been much appreciated by the old people.

The Council assist the W. V. S. in providing meals on wheels for old people and this worthwhile service is greatly appreciated by the recipients. An average of 108 meals per week are distributed.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Borough during 1967. The table is drawn up after making the necessary corrections in diagnosis by either the practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospitals.

Disease	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	Age Unknown	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet fever	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Scarletina	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping cough	-	3	1	2	3	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	2
Measles	13	44	43	52	56	175	8	3	-	-	-	-	3	397	-
Tuberculosis: Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	3	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
TOTAL	15	48	44	54	59	180	10	5	1	1	1	3	3	424	3

During the previous year 165 cases of notifiable infectious diseases were notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

No cases were notified during the year.

Measles

397 cases of measles were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever

2 cases were notified.

Tuberculosis

No new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and only 1 non-respiratory case of tuberculosis was notified in 1967, as compared with 3 respiratory cases and 3 non-respiratory in 1966.

	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-respiratory</u>
Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31. 12. 67.	80	9
Number of new cases during year	-	1
Number of deaths during the year	-	-

The following table shows the sex and age group of cases notified during the year: -

Age	Under 5	5 - 14	15 - 24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	Age Unknown	Total
Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Female	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

B. C. G. Vaccine

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to tuberculosis, vaccination with B. C. G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages 13 and 14 years attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 674 accepted the offer and received preliminary skin test, the "Half Test", to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 616 of these gave negative results and 598 were vaccinated with the B. C. G. vaccine.

Food Poisoning

3 cases of Food Poisoning were notified.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Refuse disposal is by Controlled Tipping and use as tipping sites is made of the many claypits surrounding the town. The tip at present in use is situated close to a residential area, and the strictest control over tipping technique is essential if nuisance is to be avoided. The Council are at present looking into the possibility of establishing in the rural area a tip which could be used jointly with the Rural District Council, particularly during the hot summer months of the year.

Disinfection

The disinfection centre is working satisfactorily and 2 disinfections were carried out during the year.

Water Supplies

Regular bacteriological examination of existing supplies has been made of the water going into supply.

Results were as follows:-

Ashford Reservoir

Water after treatment. 11 samples were tested and all gave excellent results.

Durleigh Reservoir

Water after treatment. 11 samples were tested and all gave excellent results.

Routine chemical analysis of the Durleigh and Ashford supplies showed moderately hard waters containing some organic pollution. Detailed reports were as follows:-

Report of Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water.

Received on 30th May, 1967.

Labelled: Treated Water. Ex Ashford supply via Wernbdon Reservoir.

Taken from tap over sink at 100, Polden Street, Bridgwater.

Physical Characters	<u>Parts per million</u> Clear and bright Hazen Units less than 5
Reaction	Very slightly alkaline
pH	7.4
Free Carbon Dioxide	3.0
Total Solids	250.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	115.0
Carbonate Hardness "	115.0
Non-Carbonate Hardness "	45.0
Total Hardness "	160.0
Chloride (as Cl)	20.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid " "	0.102
Nitrate " "	1.6
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	0.90
Sediment	Trace
Iron, Copper, Lead and Zinc	Nil

Swimming Baths

Treatment of the water in the swimming baths is regularly supervised. Modern plant enables the water to be turned over every six hours and at the same time to be filtered and purified. Bacteriological examination of the water was carried out on 15 occasions and all gave excellent results.

Sewage Disposal

The provision of a new sewer outfall to relieve overloaded sewers at Chilton Street and to provide for development in that area has been held up pending discussion with the River Board on the broader question of sewage disposal from the Borough as a whole. The Council have, therefore, instructed their consulting engineers to prepare a scheme for the collection and treatment of all domestic sewage before discharge to the River Parrett. Further consideration is being given to measures designed to reduce the polluting effects of trade effluent on the river.

Housing

Number of permanent dwellings in Borough	8, 568
Number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority	3, 477
Number of houses demolished or closed during the year as a result of formal or informal action	1

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection	
	For Slum Clearance	For Other purposes	For Slum Clearance	For Other purposes
Local Authority	-	42	-	82
Private Enterprise	-	42	-	40

Advantage has also been taken of Improvement Grants made under the Housing Acts, 1949-54. 46 applications in respect of dwellings were received of which ~~52~~^{all} were approved.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961.

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part I of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	7	11	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	127	137	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	27	-	-
Total	142	175	1	-

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instructed
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. Insp.	By H. M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (s. 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	17	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	18	-	2	-

	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-whole-some prem.	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing) Making etc. apparel) Cleaning and Washing	88	-	-	-	-	-
Brush making	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total	90	-	-	-	-	-

STAFF EXAMINATIONS

Medical examinations carried out by the Department in connection with new appointments to the Council's staff, and in connection with the Superannuation Scheme and the Workmen's Sickness Benefit Regulations, were as follows:-

<u>Department</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Town Clerk	-	2	2
Borough Engineer	32	2	34
Borough Treasurer	2	2	4
Housing	9	1	10
Health	1	-	1
Library	-	3	3
	<u>44</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>54</u>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To,

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1967.

Housing

During the year numerous complaints were received and dealt with under the Public Health or Housing Acts.

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of complaints received from people living in unsatisfactory housing conditions and this can be credited to the work carried out in the demolition of insanitary houses during the post-war period.

32 preliminary notices were served. In no case was it necessary to take legal proceedings.

28 houses were inspected for the purpose of having defects remedied. During the year 14 houses were made fit and one house was the subject of a Closing Order.

The inspection of accommodation occupied by applicants on the Housing Waiting List still entails a considerable amount of work.

The number of houses found to be verminous was 11.

One case of overcrowding was found during the year, 4 cases were abated but 6 cases remain to be abated.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

Registrations and Inspections

The whole of the premises coming within the scope of the Act have been registered and a keen look-out is kept for new firms opening in the Borough.

Regular inspections are made of all registered premises.

Operation of the General Provisions of the Act

The inspections have revealed and remedied a great number of minor infringements of the Act, a list of which is given in the summary. However, the number of infringements under each section is much less than last year which is a direct result of continuous inspection and advice given by the department.

Exemptions

One exemption was approved during the year. This was for exemption under Section 46 from the requirements to provide separate sanitary accommodation for the sexes. The exemption was granted for twelve months.

Accidents

The number of accidents reported during 1967 was two, which is the same as in 1966. They both consisted of injuries caused by dropping goods whilst unloading. I should think that the figures do not give a true appraisal of the position as I am convinced that some accidents are never reported.

Prosecutions

There has been no necessity to institute proceedings.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	8	123	50
Retail Shops	17	257	120
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	17	4
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	9	38	18
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	1, 123
Retail shops	1, 471
Wholesale departments, warehouses	317
Catering establishments open to the public	168
Canteens	5
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	3, 084
Total Females	1, 640
Total Males	1, 444

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness 3	13	Sitting facilities 8
5	Overcrowding 3	14	Seats (sedentary workers) -
6	Temperature 24	15	Eating facilities 3
7	Ventilation 6	16	Floors, passages & stairs 18
8	Lighting -	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery 4
9	Sanitary conveniences 30	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery -
10	Washing facilities 30	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery -
11	Supply of drinking water 1	23	Prohibition of heavy work -
12	Clothing accommodation 6	24	First Aid General Provisions 34
21.		Total	170

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

The following table gives the amount of work carried out under the Act since it came into force.

No. of applications received	65
No. of houses inspected	65
Form J's sent to owners	65
Form K's received from owners	39
Repairs completed	58
Houses demolished	3
Applications withdrawn - tenants purchased house	3
Certificates of Disrepair issued	25
Certificates of Disrepair revoked	22

Infectious Diseases

Enquiries are made in cases of notifiable disease and disinfection is carried out free of cost. In other cases a charge is made. The disinfecting plant at Market Street is functioning satisfactorily.

Foods

The inspection of food and the premises in which it is prepared for sale or sold is one of the most important duties of the department.

(i) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Routine inspections of premises under the above Regulations have occupied a great deal of time. Shop keepers have been found to be most co-operative and show considerable interest in the production and sale of food under hygienic conditions. The increasing tendency of manufacturers to pre-pack their products is also a major factor in general appearance of food shops. The serving of notices requiring improvements is now superseded in the main by verbal requests which are producing the same results.

The number of food premises in the Borough which are subject to these Regulations is 254, and have been classified in the following categories. Each food business is classified by its main trade, due to the diversity of foodstuffs sold in many premises.

	No. of Premises	Premis. fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (hand washing facilities)	No. of premis. to which Reg. 19 applies	Premis. fitted to comply with Reg. 19 (food & equip. washing fac.)
Grocers	71	71	69	67
Butchers	22	22	22	22
Bakers & confectioners (incl. distribution centres)	16	16	16	15
Restaurants, unlicensed hotels & kiosks	18	18	18	18
Greengrocers	10	10	10	10
Confectioners (sweetmeats)	27	27	27	27
Wet fish	2	2	2	2
Fried fish shops	10	10	10	10
Licensed premises (inc. off-licences)	59	59	59	59
Cooked meats etc.	5	5	5	5
Canteens	14	14	14	13

78 stalls, which includes St. Matthews Fair, have also been inspected during the year.

(ii) The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 is 111.

Ice-Cream Premises 83

Potted, Pressed, Pickled and
Preserved Foods 28

The number of firms retailing
milk in the Borough is 42

All milk sold in the Borough is either Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

(iii) The number of inspections of registered food premises is given in the summary at the end of the report.

(iv) In connection with the visits to food premises the following foods were condemned.

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Meat at Slaughterhouse	51	4	36
Meat at retail shops		2	-
Poultry		2	33
Canned Meats		9	103
Fish		5	23
Canned Fruit and Vegetables	1	14	60
Frozen Foods		10	107
Bacon		3	84
Apricot Pulp	1	16	-
Other Foods		5	50
	56	14	48

The meat, after staining, was sent to a sterilisation plant and other foods disposed of at the Corporation Refuse Tip.

(v) No special examination of a stock or consignment of food has been necessary.

(vi) Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959 - 1963

The number of premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream is as follows:-

Registered for manufacture and sale	2
Registered for sale	83

In both instances of manufacture brands of cold mix are used.

72 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and these were graded as follows:-

Grade 1	62
Grade 2	9
Grade 3	1
Grade 4	-

These results are quite satisfactory.

Meat Inspection

All slaughtering in the Borough is carried out in a privately owned Slaughterhouse at the Cattle Market. There was an increase of over 2,800 in the number of animals killed during the year compared with 1966. This increase would have been greater but for the outbreak of foot and mouth disease over large areas of the country which greatly reduced the availability of animals for slaughter.

One hundred per cent meat inspection was again maintained and all meat passed as being fit for human consumption was suitably marked. There was a continued rise in the number of calves slaughtered in the order of 61% over last year which has meant longer working on Sundays in addition to evenings and Saturdays. In order to relieve the pressure on the Public Health Inspectors it was agreed that the Authorised Meat Inspector should be included in the rota for week-end duty and this system has worked very well.

The general quality of the meat inspected was very good and the great majority of carcasses rejected were from animals slaughtered for emergency reasons.

Carcasses Inspected

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	1,518	216	10,627	36,929	24,327+	73,617
Number Examined	1,518	216	10,627	36,929	24,327+	73,617

+ includes 155 sows and 20 boars

No horses were slaughtered within the Borough.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
<u>All diseases except T. B. & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	6	22	255	78	300	661
Parts or organs condemned	494	90	118	2,459	5,993	9,154
% of the no. inspected affected with diseases other than T. B. or cysticerci	32.9	51.9	3.6	6.9	25.9	13.3
<u>T. B. only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parts or organs condemned	1	-	-	-	282	283
% of no. inspected affected with T. B.	0.07	-	-	-	1.2	0.4

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	2	-	-	-	13
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	11	2	-	-	-	13
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for</u>						
(a) T. B.	13	-	-	-	3, 550	3, 563
(b) Cysticercosis	313	89	-	-	-	402
(c) Other	7, 755	15, 326	14, 327	9, 098	64, 253	110, 759
	8, 081	15, 415	14, 327	9, 098	67, 803	114, 724

Conditions Rendering Carcase Meat and Organs Unfit for Human Consumption

Disease or condition	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Abnormal odour	-	-	190 (3)	-	-
Abscesses	767	301	75	135	1, 713 (2)
Actinomycosis	70	124	-	-	-
Anaemia	-	-	-	215 (5)	380 (3)
Arthritic conditions	88	783 (1)	-	169 (1)	1, 048 (1)
Ascariasis	-	-	-	-	2, 890
Bruising	398	3, 296 (1)	261 (1)	170	746
Cirrhosis	118	35	28	12	901
Congestion	10	-	7	9	1, 609
Contamination (tankwater)	-	-	-	-	1, 646
C. Bovis	313	89	-	-	-
C. Ovis	-	-	-	52	-
C. Tenuicollis	-	-	-	132	6
Cystic & hydronephrosis	-	-	-	-	8
Decomposition	-	-	-	45 (1)	193 (1)
Emaciation, pathological	1, 929 (5)	970 (2)	792 (13)	971 (27)	2, 407 (30)
Enteritis, acute gastro -	-	-	633 (12)	-	-
Fascioliasis	3, 192	469	-	981	-
Fatty change	12	18	-	14	-
Fever (pyrexia)	-	830 (1)	3, 387 (47)	282 (5)	2, 452 (21)
Gangrene	-	444 (1)	-	71 (1)	313 (4)
Hydatid cysts	-	75	-	349	6
Immature	-	-	230 (11)	-	-
Imperfectly bled	-	432 (1)	-	-	591 (5)
Inflammatory conditions	26	2	28	12	12, 359
Jaundice (icterus)	-	500 (1)	40 (1)	94 (1)	276 (3)
Mastitis	-	130	-	-	-
Mastitis, acute septic	-	-	-	306 (5)	-
Melanosis	-	-	6	-	4
Metritis, acute septic	-	1, 111 (2)	-	345 (5)	186 (1)
Moribund	-	-	467 (10)	305 (6)	1, 719 (15)
Mucosal disease	6	-	-	-	-
Nephritis incl. "White spot"	-	-	48	2	8
Oedema	-	3, 381 (8)	511 (10)	337 (8)	966 (12)
Parasitical conditions	-	-	-	2, 445	339
Pericarditis	42	12	9	31	445
Pericarditis, acute septic	-	-	51 (1)	-	2, 560 (25)
Peritonitis, acute septic	-	630 (1)	261 (4)	46 (1)	1, 876 (20)
Pleurisy	243	56	7	19	3, 154
Pleurisy, acute septic	-	-	320 (2)	110 (2)	7, 626 (79)
Pneumonia	131	47	168	883	6, 465
Pneumonia, acute septic	-	-	167 (2)	-	829 (7)
Pyæmia, incl. joint-ill	600 (1)	1, 504 (3)	6, 270 (132)	277 (6)	7, 651 (64)
Sepsis	-	32	-	3	7
Septic omphalophlebitis	-	-	203 (3)	-	-
Septicæmia	-	-	168 (3)	46 (1)	-

Disease or condition	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Strongylosis	-	-	-	164	-
Swine Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	224(2)
Telangiectasis	123	144	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	66(3)	-
Toxaemia	-	-	-	-	509(4)
Tuberculosis	13	-	-	-	3, 550
Tumours	-	-	-	-	23
Uraemia	-	-	-	-	79(1)
Urticaria	-	-	-	-	39
Total weights (in lbs.)	8, 081(6)	15, 415(22)	14, 327(255)	9, 098(78)	67, 803(300)

Total weight of meat and offals rejected:-

51 tons, 4 cwts. 1 qr. 8 lbs.

The figures in brackets indicate the number of cases where the whole of the carcasses and their organs were rejected.

Foreign Bodies in Food

Twenty four complaints were received of foreign bodies in food. Examples of these complaints are wasp in a sponge, mouldy milk solids in a bottle of milk, fibrous material in a scone and mould growth in a loaf of bread. Careful investigations are made in each case and we acknowledge the ready co-operation given by other local authorities when it is found necessary.

In one case legal proceedings were instituted and the firm pleaded guilty to selling sausages which were unfit for human consumption and a fine of £10 was imposed.

Bacteriological Sampling of Food

Sixty two samples of such foods as sausages, meat pies, faggots, minced beef and flour confectionery were taken for bacteriological examination. With the exception of two all were satisfactory.

Investigations were made and advice given in the case of the two unsatisfactory samples.

Clean Air Act, 1956

Observations are made on all factory chimneys from time to time and any complaints are fully investigated. Most of the factory boilers are now oil fired and do not normally give rise to smoke problems. Under certain conditions, however, some of them have caused a nuisance by oily smuts. Advice has been given and modifications have been carried out.

Installation of all new furnaces is notified to the department under the provisions of the Act.

Complaints of noise can range from a disturbance caused by the next door neighbour to the noise emitted twenty four hours a day from a factory affecting a large number of residents.

Whilst there is no legal definition of what constitutes a noise nuisance it may be said to apply when a noise is so loud or so irritating in character and which is either so prolonged or repeated as to interfere materially with the ordinary accepted standards of human comfort.

During the year a Circular was issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government dealing with Industrial Noise. In it they advocate that the responsibility for dealing with industrial noise affecting the general public should remain with local authorities.

At one of our larger industrial concerns a team of noise consultants were engaged to carry out a survey of the whole works. A report was issued and a copy was made available to the department. It was very comprehensive and all the recommendations made were carried out with a substantial reduction of noise.

Investigations at other firms in the Borough were made throughout the year by the department and several improvements were made to reduce noise from compressors, extractor fans and steam exhausts. Compressors seem to have been the biggest single cause for complaints because the heavy vibrant sound carries considerable distances and its intermittent characteristic is particularly irritating during the hours of darkness.

The department will continue to give priority to complaints of this nature and it is pleasing to report that in all cases so far encountered the firms have been most co-operative.

Swimming Baths

Samples of water in the baths at the Broadway Lido were sent for bacteriological examination regularly throughout the season. 15 samples were examined and all were satisfactory.

Caravans

There are 2 licensed caravan sites in the Borough. In addition the Corporation owns a Municipal Caravan Site at Colley Lane, but it is anticipated that this site will be leased by a private company who will develop it for mainly residential type caravans.

Rats and Mice Destruction

No. of sewer treatments 2 No. of refuse tip treatments 3

No. of complaints received of rat and mouse infestation:-

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in district	8, 320	13
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	311	-
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	265	-
(ii) Mice	70	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	5, 909	13
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	84	-
(ii) Mice	46	-

The 3 treatments of the tip revealed only moderate to small infestations ranging from kills of 16 - 40 rats.

Two sewer treatments were completed, the first consisting of the prolonged baiting of some 276 manholes, showed a take of 27, the second consisting of 211 manholes showed a similar take.

This is a most satisfactory report and appears to be due to the continued use of Warfarin and the diligence of our Rodent Operators.

Staff

Mr. R. K. Lean retired from the post of Chief Public Health Inspector after thirty eight years service with the Borough Council. A vote of thanks and appreciation was recorded for the long and excellent service which he gave to the Borough

Mr. D. J. Hunt commenced his duties as Chief Public Health Inspector on the 7th June, 1967.

S U M M A R Y

Inspections made during the year

General Sanitation

Water Supply	54
Drainage	279
Stable and Piggeries	23
Factories	130
Outworkers	130
Rodent Control	109
Shops	100
Caravan Sites	8
Swimming Baths	8
Atmospheric Pollution	193
Pet Shops and Kennels	5
Licensed Premises	4
Noise Nuisances	366
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Inspections	206
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises General Visits	290
Miscellaneous	336

Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	38
Visits paid to the above houses	94
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	12
Visits paid to the above houses	31
Houses inspected under the Rent Act	1
Visits paid under the Rent Act	1
Houses inspected under the Housing Points Scheme	278
Houses inspected in connection with overcrowding	13
Visits paid to the above houses	13
Verminous premises inspected	16
Visits paid to the above premises	27
Miscellaneous	96

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	1
Food poisoning enquiries	1
Miscellaneous	7

Meat and Food Inspection

Visits to Slaughterhouses	830
Visits to Shops and Stalls	17
Visits to Butchers	57
Visits to Confectioners	33
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	9
Visits to Grocers	109
Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	10
Visits to Bakers and Confectioners	33

Visits to Fried Fish Shops	13
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors	24
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	43
Visits for Ice-Cream Samples	72
Visits for Food Samples (Bacteriological)	61
Visits to Restaurants and Catering Establishments	36
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	42
Visits to Licensed Premises	85
Visits to Street Vendors	66
Visits to Market Stalls	183
Miscellaneous	89
 <u>Explosives</u>	
Visits in connection with Explosives	54
Visits in connection with Petroleum Spirit	97
 <u>Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960</u>	
<u>Washing - Food and Equipment</u>	
Sinks provided or renewed	2
Water heater renewed	2
 <u>Washing - Hands</u>	
Washbasins provided or renewed	6
Hot water supply provided	8
Cold water supply provided	6
Towels provided	9
Nailbrushes provided	8
Notices provided	2
 <u>W. C. Compartments</u>	
Cleansed	2
Artificial lighting provided	3
Ventilation provided	2
 <u>Food Rooms</u>	
Provision of adequate ventilation	1
Walls repaired	1
Walls cleansed	9
Ceilings cleansed	6
Ceilings repaired	2
Impervious surfaces provided	2
Floors repaired	1
Rooms redecorated	9
 <u>Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963</u>	
<u>Section 4 - Cleanliness</u>	
Decoration of rooms	11
Stairs cleansed	1

<u>Section 5 - Overcrowding</u>	
Overcrowding abated	4
<u>Section 6 - Temperature</u>	
Provision of adequate heating	12
Provision of thermometers	49
<u>Section 7 - Ventilation</u>	
Provision of adequate ventilation	5
<u>Section 8 - Lighting</u>	
Provision of adequate artificial lighting	2
<u>Section 9 - Sanitary Conveniences</u>	
Unsatisfactory W. C. abolished	1
W. C. 's provided	8
W. C. Compartments re-decorated	7
Gents and Ladies signs provided	17
l. V. S. provided	4
Provision of incinerator for S. T. disposal	1
Provision of artificial lighting	4
Ventilation provided/improved	1
Provision of mechanical ventilation	3
<u>Section 10 - Washing Facilities</u>	
Provision of hot water supply	26
Provision of cold water supply	2
Provision of wash hand basin	17
Provision of towels	7
Provision of artificial lighting	2
<u>Section 11 - Water - Drinking</u>	
Provision of drinking water	2
Provision of drinking vessels	1
<u>Section 12 - Clothing Accommodation</u>	
Accommodation provided/improved	3
<u>Section 13 - Sitting Facilities</u>	
Additional seats provided	8
<u>Section 15 - Eating Facilities</u>	
Facilities (room) provided	3
<u>Section 16 - Floors, Passages etc.</u>	
Handrail provided	7
Handrail refixed	2
Staircase provided	1
Staircase repaired	4
Floors relaid/repared	8

Section 17 - Machinery

Provision of guards	3
Dangerous machinery withdrawn	1

Section 24 - First Aid

Provision of first aid box	51
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<u>Regulations</u> - Abstract displayed	74
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Factories Act

Artificial lighting provided to W. C. 's	2
Sanitary conveniences cleansed	13
Sanitary conveniences re-decorated	4
Additional sanitary conveniences provided	1
Intervening ventilated space provided	6
Rooms re-decorated	4
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	8

Shops Act, 1950

Forms exhibited	19
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Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Removal of harbourage	5
Drains cleared or repaired	3
Disused drainage disconnected	4

In conclusion I would like to record my appreciation to a very capable staff who have given their loyal and unstinting service to Mr. Lean and then myself throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

D. J. HUNT,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

